

HOW MUCH APART?

The Important Question of Age of Couples Entering Matrimony.

Married and Unmarried Readers of "The Evening World" Discuss It.

There is a Golden Prize for the Best Reply to the Query.

Should husband and wife be near the same age, or should the wife be much younger?

Every reader of THE EVENING WORLD is invited to compete in this contest. Contributions in this contest are subject to similar conditions of those in former competitions: The letters must not be over 200 words in length; they must be written on only one side of the paper and must be addressed to "The Marriage Age Editor, EVENING WORLD, 31 and 32 Park Row, New York."

Selected communications from those received will be printed in daily installments. The best one of all, picked out by competent judges, will win for its writer a prize of a golden double eagle.

No letters will be returned unless a request to that effect is made and postage stamps enclosed.

The Difference Age Makes.

The time to wed depends almost wholly on the moral and physical condition of the contracting parties.

For a perfect union, when man takes unto himself a companion for life, one to share his sorrows and cares, his happiness, his knowledge of worldly events—to assume successfully the management of household duties and to a necessary degree be somewhat familiar with his daily business, to command his respect and enjoy the highest and noblest qualities of pure love—a nearness of age is essential.

But if a man marries for the sake of having a more net to worship him, to be a slave (who naturally quickly fades and grows old), and not one whose general composition of mind and body tend to elevate him, then he should be ten or more years the wife's senior.

A close observance too frequently discloses the young wife seeking outside her own home pleasures and congeniality in society nearer her own age, much to the displeasure and unhappiness of her "fatherly" husband.

It Matters Much when Aged.

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It is at the two ends of the line, during extreme youth and extreme age, that this question becomes seriously important. It is too well known to need proof that woman matures earlier than man.

Hence the woman who enters the estate of matrimony at the beginning of her own life, accompanied with a youth of her own age or younger commits a grievous error, for the man's detriments. The awkward, callow boy has nothing to respond to the serene dignity of mature womanhood.

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